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**From:** Tapia, Cecilia [Tapia.Cecilia@epa.gov]  
**Sent:** 1/23/2015 5:03:47 PM  
**To:** StGermain, Margie [StGermain.Margie@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** RE: OPA Daily Digest 1/22/15/ QUESTION

No that's not a daily digest item

*Cecilia Tapia*

*Director, Environmental Sciences and Technology Division  
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11201 Renner Blvd. Lenexa, KS 66219*

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Email: [tapia.cecilia@epa.gov](mailto:tapia.cecilia@epa.gov)*

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**From:** StGermain, Margie  
**Sent:** Friday, January 23, 2015 10:28 AM  
**To:** Tapia, Cecilia  
**Subject:** RE: OPA Daily Digest 1/22/15/ QUESTION

I never did anything like that before. As a section chief, I would put outside activity at the top of my weekly highlighted. Then I assume Mike passed this information on to Ron.

This week, Daniel Dorn spoke with four different people about sorbent tube methods. They were either EPA staff or current contractors for EPA. I am not sure this merits a Daily Digest.

Margie  
x-5154

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**From:** Tapia, Cecilia  
**Sent:** Friday, January 23, 2015 9:43 AM  
**To:** Stevens, Edie; Beringer, Mike; Davis, Michael; Houlihan, John; StGermain, Margie; Nichols, Robert  
**Subject:** FW: OPA Daily Digest 1/22/15/ QUESTION

FYI ONLY: I've highlighted a couple of interesting articles.

We're supposed to report any meetings that we have with outside entities, any key items such as audits of our lab, etc., in the Daily Digest.

What's our process ?

*Cecilia Tapia*

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**From:** Washburn, Ben  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 22, 2015 4:27 PM  
**To:** R7 Daily Digest Group  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest 1/22/15

## **OPA Daily Digest for 01/22/15**

### **Congressional Inquiries:**

**Sen. Claire McCaskill (Mo.)** – Email – 1/20/15: Requests status update on permit application for an ethanol refinery in Mead, Neb. Due: 1/22/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

### **State Government Inquiries:**

None

### **Press Inquiries:**

**WKOW Channel 27, Madison, Wis.** – Pete Zervakis – 1/22/15: Questions about Class II injection wells in the state of Iowa. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

### **Environmental Stories:**

**Sioux City Journal (Iowa) - Iowa farm group seeks more pesticide oversight from state** - 1/21/15 - A group representing farmers said Tuesday that it's calling on the state to toughen oversight and penalties related to pesticide use. The Iowa Farmers Union said members have petitioned the state to change rules governing pesticide drifting through the air. [http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/iowa-farm-group-seeks-more-pesticide-oversight-from-state/article\\_5fcf31e7-1c0d-5c81-9ca9-63fac29835f7.html](http://siouxcityjournal.com/ap/state/iowa-farm-group-seeks-more-pesticide-oversight-from-state/article_5fcf31e7-1c0d-5c81-9ca9-63fac29835f7.html)

**Des Moines Register - Group of 11 metro governments focuses on watershed plan for Walnut Creek** - 1/21/15 - A group of 11 central Iowa governments formed to watch over the Walnut Creek watershed will launch a planning process next month aimed at improving issues such as water quality and flood control, according to a release Wednesday from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/local/community/2015/01/21/watershed-plan-walnut-creek/22142925/>  
NOTE: Paywall issues may keep you from seeing this article. Full text is included at the end of this email.

**WHO-TV Ch. 13 Des Moines, Iowa - Iowa Farmers Calling for Reform on Pesticide Drift Response** - 1/21/15 - Members of the Iowa Farmers Union and the Pesticide Action Network are calling on the Iowa Department of Agriculture to reform its reporting and response process for farmers who experience losses from pesticide drift. <http://whotv.com/2015/01/21/iowa-farmers-calling-for-reform-on-pesticide-drift-response/>

**KIWA AM/FM Sheldon, Iowa - Iowa Farmers Union Petitions State Ag Department (audio)** - 1/21/15 - The Iowa Farmers Union is asking the Iowa Department of Agriculture to require 48-hour advance notice to neighboring farms before pesticides are applied to row crops. <http://kiwaradio.com/local-news/iowa-farmers-union-wants-pesticide-applicators-to-give-neighbors-48-hour-notice/>

**Iowa Public Radio - Organic Farmers: Pesticide Drift Kills** - 1/20/15 - Specialty crop farmers were at the capitol today complaining of damage to their produce from pesticide drift. That's when chemicals sprayed on one field reach a contiguous one where they are not wanted. <http://iowapublicradio.org/post/organic-farmers-pesticide-drift-kills>

**Iowa Farmer Today - Agriculture groups, urban water works collaborate on key water quality project** - 1/21/15 - The city of Cedar Rapids partnered with multiple agriculture commodity groups Jan. 14 as \$2 million in Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) funding was approved for water-quality improvement projects in the Middle Cedar River. [http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/news/crop/agriculture-groups-urban-water-works-collaborate-on-key-water-quality/article\\_2b0862b0-a1a0-11e4-880d-eff53116815b.html](http://www.iowafarmertoday.com/news/crop/agriculture-groups-urban-water-works-collaborate-on-key-water-quality/article_2b0862b0-a1a0-11e4-880d-eff53116815b.html)

**Muscatine Journal (Iowa) - Muscatine landfill, DNR settle on fine, plan** - 1/21/14 - The Muscatine County Solid Waste Management Agency, which services the Muscatine County Landfill, will pay a \$6,000 fine and follow a three-year action plan following an administrative consent order that was issued by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. The order

stems from operational violations at the landfill. [http://muscatinejournal.com/news/local/muscatine-landfill-dnr-settle-on-fine-plan/article\\_4efa802d-a456-523d-b298-cf3fc501f224.html](http://muscatinejournal.com/news/local/muscatine-landfill-dnr-settle-on-fine-plan/article_4efa802d-a456-523d-b298-cf3fc501f224.html)

**WHO Ch. 13 Des Moines - DNR Leader Calls for End to Finger Pointing (video)** - 1/21/15 - Iowa Department of Natural Resources Director Chuck Gipp called for an end to finger-pointing when it comes to dealing with water quality issues in Iowa. On Wednesday Gipp spoke before a joint meeting of the Environmental Protection Commission, and the Natural Resources Council. <http://whotv.com/2015/01/21/dnr-leader-calls-for-end-to-finger-pointing/>

**Joplin Globe - Neosho council OKs stormwater runoff code updates** - 1/21/15 - An amendment to Neosho's stormwater runoff management code will give the city enforcement authority over illegal discharges into the city's wastewater system. [http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local\\_news/neosho-council-oks-stormwater-runoff-code-updates/article\\_4710e59d-46b9-5534-abfd-7d7f684563b6.html](http://www.joplinglobe.com/news/local_news/neosho-council-oks-stormwater-runoff-code-updates/article_4710e59d-46b9-5534-abfd-7d7f684563b6.html)

**Daily Journal (Park Hills, Mo.) - MDC offers local landowners assistance with environmental improvements** - 1/21/15 - The Missouri Department of Conservation will provide assistance in Madison County for environmental improvement projects. [http://dailyjournalonline.com/democrat-news/mdc-offers-local-landowners-assistance-with-environmental-improvements/article\\_c21b7408-9ed1-5cc0-a532-c807cddb659f.html](http://dailyjournalonline.com/democrat-news/mdc-offers-local-landowners-assistance-with-environmental-improvements/article_c21b7408-9ed1-5cc0-a532-c807cddb659f.html)

**Kansas Ag Land - Aqueduct's viability questioned** - 1/21/15 - A Wednesday meeting of the Kansas Aqueduct Committee flowed smoothly until just before the restroom break. Conversation between committee members over the executive summary of a 33-year-old study on construction of an aqueduct to push water uphill became a bit testy. [http://www.kansasagland.com/news/local\\_state\\_news/aqueduct-s-viability-questioned/article\\_f4294e71-6b81-5913-a062-f0c2dad060b5.html](http://www.kansasagland.com/news/local_state_news/aqueduct-s-viability-questioned/article_f4294e71-6b81-5913-a062-f0c2dad060b5.html)

**Associated Press - Text of Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's State of the State address** - 1/21/15 - Text of Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon's State of the State address to the Missouri General Assembly, as prepared for delivery Wednesday night. <http://www.timesunion.com/news/science/article/Text-of-Missouri-Gov-Jay-Nixon-s-State-of-the-6031285.php>

**Kansas City Star - Backers of high-voltage line that would deliver Kansas wind power seek customers** - 1/21/14 - The backers of a proposed high-voltage power line to ship Kansas wind power to other states are soliciting customers. The Grain Belt Express, which would stretch across 750 miles and cost \$2 billion, still has regulatory obstacles to overcome. <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article7892484.html>

**Farm Future - Biodiesel supporters: Grassroots action needed to advance biofuels** - 1/22/15 - Leaders at the National Biodiesel Conference in Fort Worth say grassroots action is needed to help deliver certainty to the Renewable Fuel Standard. <http://www.kansascity.com/news/business/article7892484.html>

**E&E Daily - Sen. Fischer retools amendment restricting land designations, purchases** - 1/22/15 - Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) has softened her amendment limiting the designation of new federally protected lands, though the measure is still being vigorously opposed by green groups. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1060012074/>

**Southeast Farm Press - Corn growers say now is worst time to alter Renewable Fuel Standard** - 1/22/15 - With a record corn crop and low corn prices, efforts to change the Renewable Fuel Standard are coming at the worst possible time for America's farmers, the National Corn Growers Association said. <http://southeastfarmpress.com/government/corn-growers-say-now-worst-time-alter-renewable-fuel-standard>

**Des Moines Register - Iowa could be Battleground Ethanol in 2016** - 1/22/15 - Iowa will be Battleground Ethanol in the 2016 presidential race if a couple of seasoned political strategists have their way. Their underlying message: Candidates who don't support a federal renewable fuels rule have a history of losing races in corn-intense Iowa. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2015/01/22/iowa-battleground-ethanol-presidential-race/22154641/>

**Radio Iowa - New group forms to pressure presidential candidates to back ethanol production mandate (audio)** - 1/22/15 - A newly-formed coalition plans a "multi-million dollar campaign" to try to get the presidential candidates who'll be coming through Iowa to back the Renewable Fuels Standard. <http://www.radioiowa.com/2015/01/22/new-group-forms-to-pressure-presidential-candidates-to-back-ethanol-production-mandate-audio/>

**Domestic Fuel - Iowa Coalition to Promote RFS as Candidate** - 1/22/15 - Iowa Governor Terry Branstad today announced a major new bi-partisan campaign called America's Renewable Future that will promote the Renewable Fuel Standard in the 2016 Iowa Presidential caucuses. <http://domesticfuel.com/2015/01/22/iowa-coalition-to-promote-rfs-as-candidate/>

**The Hill - Iowa wants ethanol front and center in 2016 race** - 1/22/15 - The officials and business interests behind the campaign dubbed America's Renewable Future want to use Iowa's presidential caucus in January 2016 to press candidates to "take a stand" on the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and make it central to the race. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230403-iowa-wants-ethanol-front-and-center-in-2016-race>

**Capital Press - Case could impact dairies, livestock operations nationwide** - 1/21/15 - A district court ruling this week applying RCRA regulations to manure for the first time in history has serious implications for livestock producers nationwide. <http://www.capitalpress.com/Dairy/20150121/case-could-impact-dairies-livestock-operations-nationwide>

**The Hill (blog) - The ongoing attack on ethanol** - 1/22/15 - There is an old saying that the only things that are certain in life are death and taxes. However, we must add to that list the certainty that each Congress Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) will continue her inexplicable crusade against corn ethanol. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/230267-the-ongoing-attack-on-ethanol>

**New York Times - Op-Ed Columnist: Inequality in the Air We Breathe?** - 1/21/15 - Among the injustices perpetrated on poor and minority populations, this may in fact be the most pernicious and least humane: the threat of poisoning the very air that you breathe. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/22/opinion/charles-blow-inequality-in-the-air-we-breathe.html>

**Environmental Leader - Chemical Emergency Response Software for Water Treatment Facilities Launched** - 1/22/15 - Safer Systems, an integrated chemical emergency response company, has launched an integrated emergency response software product designed for water treatment facilities to maximize their chemical monitoring and emergency response efforts. <http://www.environmentalleader.com/2015/01/22/chemical-emergency-response-software-for-water-treatment-facilities-launched/>

**The Hill - GOP to seek changes to EPA coal ash rule** - 1/22/15 - House Republicans are planning a bill aimed at providing more certainty to utilities by amending the Environmental Protection Agency's coal ash disposal rule. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230410-gop-to-seek-changes-to-epa-coal-ash-rule>

**The Hill - Obama touts low gas prices in SOTU** - 01/20/15 - President Obama touted low gas prices in his State of the Union Tuesday night, saying they will save families hundreds of dollars. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230192-obama-touts-low-gas-prices-in-sotu>

**The Hill - Sen. Inhofe takes charge of Environment Committee** - 1/22/15 - 1/21/15 - Sen. James Inhofe (R-Okla.), the Senate's most vocal climate change skeptic, took the gavel of the Environment and Public Works Committee Wednesday, eight years after he gave it up. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/230254-sen-inhofe-takes-charge-of-environment-committee>

**Associated Press - Nearly 3M gallons of brine spill; ND oil boom's largest leak** - 9/21/15 - Nearly 3 million gallons of saltwater generated by oil drilling have leaked from a North Dakota pipeline, an official said Wednesday, the largest such spill since the state's current oil boom began and nearly three times worse than previous record spills. Two creeks have been affected, but the full environmental effect might not be clear for months. <http://www.kentucky.com/2015/01/21/3653779-nd-official-3m-gallons-of-saltwater.html>

**Los Angeles Times - 'Climate change is real and not a hoax,' Senate overwhelmingly decides** - 1/21/14 - The U.S. Senate has made it official: Climate change is not a hoax. The tidy resolution said simply: "It is the sense of the Senate that climate change is real and not a hoax." <http://www.latimes.com/nation/politics/politicsnow/la-pn-senate-climate-hoax-20150121-story.html>

**E&E Daily - Vitter, Manchin to reintroduce bill limiting EPA vetoes** - 1/22/15 - Louisiana Republican Sen. David Vitter and West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin will introduce legislation as soon as today to limit U.S. EPA's permit veto power under the Clean Water Act, according to a source close to the debate. <http://www.eenews.net/eedaily/stories/1060012075/>

**Washington Post - Introducing The Post's new energy and environment online section** - 1/22/15 - Partisan schisms and diverging, emotionally rooted values about environmental issues are now the norm. Climate change may be the most polarizing issue in America, second only to whether you like President Obama. Today we launch new coverage at The Washington Post that will deconstruct these issues with an audience of consumers, policymakers, executives and scientists in mind. <http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/01/22/introducing-the-posts-new-energy-and-environment-online-section/>

**Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

### **Upcoming Administrator/RA Events:**

\* New additions noted with an asterisk

**2/3/15** – Air and Waste Management Association – 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Environmental Conference, Overland Park, Kan. Contact: Becky Weber, 7487

**\*2/13/15** – EPA/MDNR Meeting, Sedalia, Mo. Contact: Gene Gunn, 7776

**2/17/14** – Agriculture Future of America's On Tap Webinar Series, Regional Office. Contact: Katie Howard, 7861

**2/18/15** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

**2/23-26/15** – Regional Administrator/Deputy Regional Administrator Meetings, San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**3/19/14** – American Society of Environmental Historians Annual Conference, Washington D.C. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**4/15/15** – Dole Institute of Politics – Public Service and Policy Session, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

### **DRA:**

**2/18/15** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Patrick Bustos, 7969

**2/23-26/15** – Regional Administrator/Deputy Regional Administrator Meetings, San Francisco, Calif. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**\*3/2-4/15** – Executive Management Council Meeting, Washington, D.C. Contact: Dana Peters, 7444

### **RA/Immediate Office**

None

### **Other Events**

#### **AWMD**

None

#### **CNSL**

None

#### **ECO/EJ**

None

#### **ENSV**

None

#### **PLMG**

None

## **RA/OPA**

**\*2/5/15** – Attend Chicago Heights CAG meeting, St. Louis, Mo. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364

## **SUPR**

None

## **WWPD**

**\*1/26-30/15** – Drinking Water Data File Review and Program Review at Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Scott Marquess, 7131, Ken Deason, 7585, Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7178

**1/26-29/15** – National Enforcement Case Development Training, Denver, Colo. Contact: Maria Morey, 7079

**\*1/27-28/15** – No-Till on the Plains Winter Conference, Salina, Kan. Contact: Damon Frizzell, 7560

**1/28/15** – EPA Region 7 discussion with KDHE regarding new or revised water quality standards, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Karen Flournoy, 7782, John DeLashmit, 7821, Amy Shields, 7396

**2/3-5/15** – 2014 State Revolving Fund Annual Review with Kansas Department of Health and Environment, Topeka, Kan. Contacts: Sabre Germano, 7026, Chris Simmons, 7237

**2/4-6/15** – Visit water utility operator from Blair, Nebraska to work on Climate Ready Evaluation Assessment Tool Model, Omaha, Neb. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

**2/8-11/15** – 2015 Groundwater Protection Council and Underground Injection Control Conference, Austin, Tex. Contacts: David Garrett, 7159, Kurt Hildebrandt, 7413

**2/10-11/15** – Drinking Water Program Coordination Meeting with Iowa Department of Natural Resources, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Neftali Hernandez-Santiago, 7036

**\*2/18/15** – Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Meeting, Lawrence, Kan. Contact: Karen Flournoy, 7782

**\*2/19/15** – Water Security Information Presentation at WaterOne, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: Ken Deason, 7585

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## **Des Moines Register**

### **Group of 11 metro governments focuses on watershed plan for Walnut Creek**

By Christopher Pratt  
9:19 p.m. CST January 21, 2015

A group of 11 central Iowa governments formed to watch over the Walnut Creek watershed will launch a planning process next month aimed at improving issues such as water quality and flood control, according to a release Wednesday from the Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

The Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority was formed in 2014. Walnut Creek flows through many of the western suburbs of Des Moines before connecting with the Raccoon River, where it eventually becomes part of the water supply system that hundreds of thousands of people depend on.

Watershed authorities are able to tap state grants made available by legislation passed in response to the 2008 floods. The Walnut Creek group received a \$123,000 grant from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to develop a watershed plan, according to the statement. The consulting firm RDG Planning and Design has been brought on to help develop the group's watershed plan.

Clive, Johnston, Urbandale, Waukee, Windsor Heights and West Des Moines are just a few of the cities involved in the new group. West Des Moines City Manager Tom Hadden, who was tapped as chairman, said in the statement that the newly formed entity is a great example of local governments working together for the benefit of people across the region.

"Water knows no political boundaries," Hadden said in the statement.

The creek and its tributaries traverse 97 miles and drain 52,643 acres in Dallas and Polk counties, according to the city of Clive's website.

Waukee City Administrator Tim Moerman said he was optimistic the group could help communities reduce the velocity of storm water moving downstream. "Forming this is just a way for everybody to say we are part of a greater storm water system and we need to work together to manage it," Moerman said.

The Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization is helping to establish the watershed management authority in its role of coordinating multiple local governments for the good of the region, according to its statement.

### **More on watershed groups**

According to the Iowa code, watershed management authorities are designed to help communities collaborate on watershed improvements. There are 11 voting members of the Walnut Creek Watershed Management Authority. They are Polk County; Clive; Dallas Center; Grimes; Johnston; Urbandale; Waukee; West Des Moines; Windsor Heights; Dallas County Soil and Water Conservation District and the Polk County Soil and Water Conservation District. Stakeholders involved in the group's planning process include Des Moines; Iowa Soybean Association; Iowa Agriculture Water Alliance; Des Moines Water Works; Green and Sustainable Clive; the Walnut Creek Watershed Coalition and RDG Planning & Design.

Source: Des Moines Area Metropolitan Planning Organization

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### **Des Moines Register**

## **Iowa could be Battleground Ethanol in 2016**

By Jennifer Jacobs, [jejacobs@dmreg.com](mailto:jejacobs@dmreg.com)  
11:49 a.m. CST January 22, 2015

Iowa will be Battleground Ethanol in the 2016 presidential race if a couple of seasoned political strategists have their way.

Their underlying message: Candidates who don't support a federal renewable fuels rule have a history of losing races in corn-intense Iowa.

A coalition of Iowans led by Democrat Derek Eadon and Republican Eric Branstad intends to spend the next few months bringing presidential hopefuls up to speed on why they believe the Renewable Fuel Standard is crucial to the economy in Iowa and the nation. After that, they'll make sure Iowa voters know which side each candidate has taken.

Their new nonprofit political organization, America's Renewable Future, will make a multimillion-dollar push backed by some of Iowa's top elected officials and influencers in the agriculture world, they said.

"We're going to put in that tireless work that a political campaign does, except the RFS is our candidate," Branstad told The Des Moines Register in an interview Wednesday.

A news conference to announce the campaign is set for 10:30 a.m. Thursday at the Iowa Capitol rotunda.

What's at issue: the future of a federal mandate specifying how much biofuel should be mixed into the country's motor fuel supply. It has nothing to do with subsidies; it's a matter of market access, advocates say. Ethanol and gasoline compete for a place in cars' gas tanks. Ethanol is made primarily from corn, and biodiesel is made from soybeans and other feedstocks.

Without the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency mandate, the petroleum industry would lock the renewable fuels industry out of the market, supporters say. That would reduce consumer choice, drive up gas prices, depress corn prices, increase the country's reliance on foreign oil, and increase carbon emissions that can harm the environment, they say.

But the oil and restaurant industries have pushed back hard, arguing the ethanol mandate drives up gas prices and food prices.

"The next president is going to have a lot of say over the RFS and what the EPA does," said Branstad, who is one of Gov. Terry Branstad's sons.

Eadon and Eric Branstad argued that candidates who support the RFS tend to do well in Iowa. Republicans Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum, who both favored it, finished at the top of the Iowa caucuses in 2012, while those who opposed it didn't fare as well, including Rick Perry and Michele Bachmann.

In 2008, failed Republican presidential candidate John McCain called ethanol "a joke." In contrast, Democrat Barack Obama backed the fuel standard, then carried Iowa in the 2008 and 2012 presidential elections. The only Iowa survey Obama filled out during the 2012 race was the Iowa Corn Growers' survey, which gave him an A rating on his RFS answers, said Eadon, who was state director for Obama's 2012 campaign.

Organizers of America's Renewable Future said they realize that just because a candidate pledges support for the renewable fuel standard doesn't mean he or she will remain loyal once elected. The Obama administration in late 2013 proposed lower volume requirements for biofuels; no final decision has been made.

"Just the fact that Obama has been talking about lowering the RFS has already hurt the Iowa economy," Eadon said. Corn prices are lower now than when the Renewable Fuel Standard was passed in 2007.

A bipartisan team is co-chairing America's Renewable Future: former Lt. Gov. Patty Judge, a Democrat; former state Rep. Annette Sweeney, a Republican; and Bill Couser, president of Couser Cattle Company and co-founder of Lincolnway Energy.

The effort is being financed by the Iowa Corn Growers Association, the Iowa Renewable Fuels Association, Growth Energy and other partners, organizers said.